'Police Riot' Punishment Is Urged

From News Dispatches

CHICAGO, Dec. 2 — The director of a Federal task force that found some Chicago policemen "rioted" during the week of the Democratic National Convention called today for "prompt and severe" disciplinary action against them.

"The blue curtain cannot be permitted to stay down," Daniel Walker said. "The guilty must be rooted out and disciplined."

Walker, head of the study team that submitted its report Sunday to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, told a news conference that the report provides "the cold, hard-nosed, unadulterated facts."

The report, a new bombshell in the city where police and National Guardsmen battled thousands of antiwar demonstrators last August, charged that "the weight of violence was overwhelmingly on the side of the police."

"The suspension or dismissal of a handful of policemen will not be enough," to prevent a recurrence, Walker said. "This community should not settle for less than prompt and severe action against these offenders.

"If no action is taken against them the effect can only be to discourage the majority of policemen who acted responsibly and further weaken the bond between police and the community."

Walker noted that eight or ten policemen have been suspended but said more than a handful were involved and "their lieutenants and sergeants know who they are."

He said that like most Americans, he had assumed that the only violence in Chicago was the telecast battle in front of the Conrad Hilton Hotel. But when he began reading the statements that his 90-man task force collected, he said, "I was stunned, shocked, and amazed (at) the violence that took place in the streets and alleys of Chicago."

Walker, a vice president of Montgomery Ward and President of the Chicago Crime Commission, said his task force has made no recommendations of preventing a recurrence of the "police riot" because that was not part of their assignment, but he said "a way must be found to cope with mass dissent."

"I feel very deeply about this issue, about the right of constitutional dissent . . . It is a vital kind of confrontation that will happen again. That is why I am so riled up about it."

Told by a reporter that public reaction voiced to Chicago radio stations and newspapers

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Radical leader denies conspiracy to kindle Chicago during convention. Page A14.

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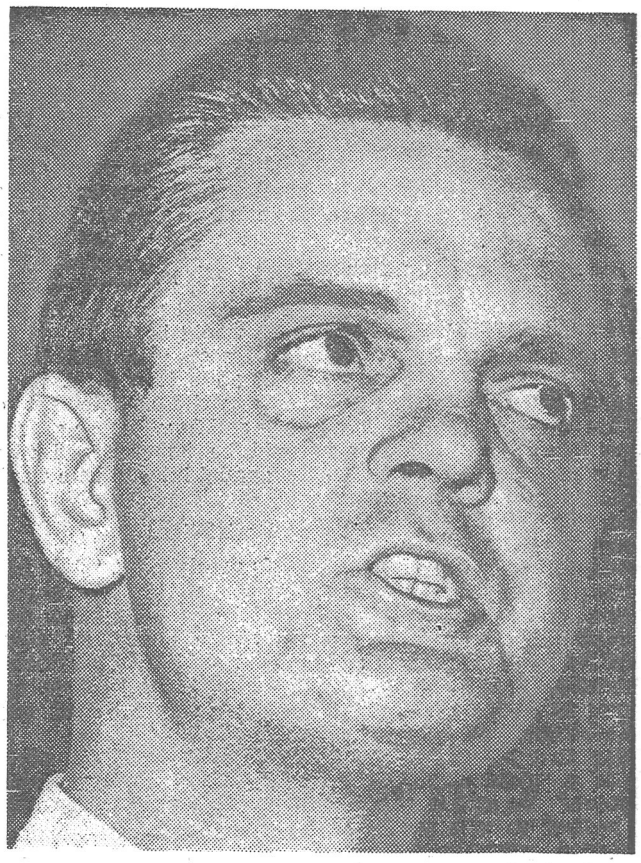
has been running against the report's criticism of the police, Walker said:

"This report is not aimed at the people who have prejudice on either side . . . it is aimed at the thoughtful people who read the facts . . . I hope they learn from the report."

Walker said some testimony was deleted by the task force at the request of the Justice Department because it related to specific violent action by policemen against bystanders. The facts on such cases will become known when a Federal grand jury acts on them, he said.

Walker told newsmen the names of those who testified were deleted because they



Associated Press

Daniel Walker: "Blue Curtain cannot be permitted . . ."

were "not important to the facts." He said if three, four or five persons corroborated another person's story, it was reported by the study group as fact. If only one person made a charge, he said, that was noted in the report.

Mayor Richard J. Daley, who was accused by the fact-finders of conditioning police to believe that violence against demonstrators would be condoned, said Dunday that the report was an "excellent study" but criticized its summary as misleading.

"I do not agree," Walker said today. "I do not think the summary would mislead anyone. There were a number of policemen guilty of indiscriminate violence. That is the sum of the report."

"I did not write the entire report," he added, "but it is my opinion and I will unequivocally stand on it." But he said the President's commission on violence might "evaluate" the report and form other opinions. The commission released the report Sunday without comment.

Walker was asked if he would allow his children to read the report, which is sprinkled with obscenities taken from verbatim quotes of police and demonstrators.

"The high school-aged children will read it," he said.

Police Supt. James B. Conlisk refused to comment on the report. Frank Sullivan, director of public relations for the Police Department, said Conlisk had read the report but was studying it.

Joseph J. Lefevour, president of the Chicago lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, said the police "are going to be hurt by it (the report) internally." He said the police did "a great job under pressure."

In Washington Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), who criticized "Gestapo tactics in the streets" at the convention, called the report "a manual on how not to handle the expression of dissent."

Rep. Roman C. Pucinski, (D-Ill.,) said the report interfered with a Federal grand jury investigation of the disorders. "I wouldn't be surprised if there was an investigation of the investigators," he said.

Reaction to the report also came from the public. Chicago police spokesmen said their switchboard received more than 125 calls in an hour before midnight. Most of the callers expressed support for the police, the spokesmen said.